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## Marginal Column

By JOHN F. REYNOLDS

IN spite of tightening export controls the Soviet bloc is still able to buy strategic raw materials elsewhere and in ever increasing quantities. Here is an example: Russian imports of natural rubber jumped from 9,500 tons in 1946 to 105,000 last year and are likely to reach 125,000 tons this year. A large proportion comes from Malaysia, and though that country is now being urged by Britain to stop exports of rubber—and, incidentally, of tin—to Russia, the Malaysians argue that there is not much point in clamping down on these exports as long as the Russians are willing to sell the Malaysians all the rubber they want.

Mr. Paul Hoffman, outgoing Marshall Plan administrator, has been touring Europe on a one-man mission following confidential reports from Marshall Plan officials in Europe which say in so many words that some Continental European governments are deliberately using slow tactics in their defence preparations. These reports, originating from Paris, Rome and other Continental capitals, have caused grave concern in Washington. Mr. Paul Hoffman has, therefore, told Continental leaders that they must take unpopular economic decisions now in order not to jeopardize the common Atlantic defence programme. To put off these decisions would simply mean that the U.S. would have to reconsider its attitude to the problem of Atlantic European defence. Until these decisions are made there will be no Atlantic Army, only an Atlantic High Command with no troops to command.

THE Americans want to create a European Army with a total of 50 divisions within two years—which, of course, means making the necessary economic re-arrangements in Europe now and then. These re-arrangements, Britain would supply 10, with five in England and five in Germany—France 20, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg five, Italy 10 and the U.S. itself also five, which would be permanently stationed in Europe.

FRENCH and Belgian experts on Communist fifth-column tactics have met in London for second talks with special branch officers on the creation of a Three-Power anti-spy organization after it had been established that Communist spy and sabotage activities are organized on a regional basis, one region being North-West Europe, which includes Britain, France and Belgium.

LATEST suggestion from Washington is that General Eisenhower, but General Lucius Clay should be appointed C-in-C of the Atlantic-European Army. Reasons are that Clay, former U.S. Military Governor in Germany, is extremely familiar with Communist tactics and that he well understands the Germans who, sooner or later, will have to play their part in the European Army.

MIDDLE East experts of Britain, the U.S. and France will soon meet in London to discuss latest developments in the area where trouble among various Arab states has been mounting.

London, October.

## Sterling Buying Wave Mounts

By GEORGE LICHTHEIM,  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON, Tuesday.—A fresh wave of American and Canadian buying of sterling is causing financial observers here to wonder how much substance there is in the reiterated official denials of any intention to alter the exchange rate.

Mr. Hugh Gaultrell's declaration in New York appears to have had no effect. The demand for sterling has increased further both in New York and in the major European centres, and yesterday for the first time, the London money market obtained evidence that large American funds were going into the purchase of British bonds.

In Paris, sterling is now being freely traded at the official rate, in Geneva the free market rate is only slightly below the official one and the rate for security sterling (usable only for the purchase of British bonds) has risen from 7.40 to 9.50 francs.

**No Camouflage**  
Swiss investors are believed to be buying a British war loan, and even in Brussels, where financial opinion was least impressed with Britain's prospects, the free market rate has almost reached parity with the official rate of 140 francs.

Despite these signs and the wave of speculative forward buying in New York, the best informed commentators here remain convinced that Treasury officials here are not countering their intentions when they insist that no immediate revision of the rate is intended.

Certainly any such move would be taken against the advice of financial circles. The prevailing view is rather that the government intends to fix a higher rate next spring providing Britain's gold and dollar reserves continue to rise during the next six months.

This would be an orthodox move and would also be popular since it would tend to reduce the cost of imports, thus stemming the rise in living costs to the British consumer.

The announcement would presumably be made around the time of the annual spring budget and the government could then go to the country on a popular platform in May or June, as it apparently intends to do in any case.

The decision to take over the steel industry on February 15 points in the same direction. Any revaluation of sterling at an earlier date would, in the opinion of almost all financial experts here, represent an unjustified gamble.

## Charges Filed Against Two Chocolate Plants, Tnuva

Charges have been filed against two of the country's largest chocolate manufacturers, a Tel Aviv butcher and the Jerusalem branch of Tnuva, in the drive to root out the black market.

Shmuel Trivish, Tel Aviv butcher, has been charged with purchasing 2,500 kilograms of meat, 2,500 kilograms of poultry, selling without authority, and failing to keep a proper register of stock.

The Jerusalem Tnuva branch was charged before the Anti-Profitsteering Tribunal yesterday with having sold 10,000 unstamped eggs. The sale was allegedly made to the Association of Hotel, Restaurant, and Cafe Owners.

In the capital yesterday a spokesman of the Ministry of Supply and Rationing disclosed the names of 19 firms or persons against whom charges have been placed by the Ministry with the State Attorney, and which are awaiting trial. Altogether 69 files have been prepared out of several hundred which have been investigated by the Ministry's Control Department.

Two of those named yesterday were the Ce-De chocolate factory, of Ramat Gan, and the Lieber chocolate factory, of Tel Aviv.

The former, according to the files, is charged by the Ministry with failing to keep a register of stock for various commodities, making a false statement, and using cocoa beans contrary to instructions. The latter is charged by the Ministry with using sugar and cocoa beans contrary to instructions, failing to keep a separate register of the stock of export manufacture, and making false returns.

Levitt and Sons, textile manufacturers of Tel Aviv, were also named by the Ministry spokesman yesterday. The file prepared against it charges the firm with buying and selling cotton without authority, supplying false returns, and manufacturing cotton.

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 1)

## India Hasn't Heard Of Tibet Invasion

NEW DELHI, Tuesday (AP).—The Government of India knows nothing about a reported Chinese invasion of North Tibet mentioned in morning newspapers which quoted Chinese government sources here today.

This announcement, made by the Foreign Ministry, said that no invasion report had been received from the Indian ambassador in Peking. The Chinese Embassy and the Tibetan foreign minister, Tsepon Shakabpa, also denied any knowledge of the reports.

## Red Cross Truce In Indo-China

SAIGON, Tuesday (Reuters).—French and Vietnamese representatives were due to meet today to negotiate a Red Cross truce after the week-end "battle to destruction" near the northern frontier fortress of Thanhke, a French army spokesman said tonight.

The truce was called for by the Vietnamese rebel forces and agreed to by the French. Vietnamese forces appealed by radio for the meeting "for certain humanitarian reasons" after a five-day battle north-west of the French frontier fortress of Thanhke.

## Battle to Destruction

French army sources announced that French losses in the week-end "battle to destruction" totalled five and a half battalions, each of which usually numbers about 600.

Earlier, the French army announced in a communique that its covering force engaged in the fighting in northern Indo-China had been "overwhelmed".

The Government decided at its meeting on Monday that because of the independent status of the region, the question of their salaries should be decided by the Knesset and not by the Cabinet, it was announced yesterday.

## Knesset to Hear Cabinet Changes

The Prime Minister is expected to announce changes in the composition of the Cabinet when the Knesset re-assembles on Monday.

Today, the Cabinet will be in session all day, and it is understood that it will hear a report of Mr. Ben Gurion's reshuffle plans.

## Infiltrators Sent To Gaza, Hebron

BEERSHEBA, Tuesday.—Two groups of infiltrators, together comprising 100 men, women and children, were intercepted in the Negev today. Both groups were on their way from Gaza to Hebron. Some of the marauders were returned to Gaza, while others were sent on to Hebron.

## Heavy Loads By Rail Only

The Government's statement ten days ago that it would "encourage the maximum use of the railways" was translated into an administrative order published yesterday by the Controller of Road Transport. At from November 5, all loads of ten tons or more consigned between two addresses in the vicinity of railway stations must be transported only by rail.

The order, dated September 28, a week before the Government issued its Statement of Economic Policy, was signed by Michael Bar as authorized authority under the Defence Regulations, 1939.

## Bread Baking Curbs Removed in T.A.

TEL AVIV, Tuesday.—Restrictions on bread baking were lifted by the Food Controller yesterday in order to alleviate the bread shortage experienced in the city during the past few months. Hitherto he had imposed an increase in the flour allocation because bread was allegedly being used in large quantities for chicken feed.

## Tel Aviv to Float Loans For New Water Supply Plant

TEL AVIV, Tuesday.—The Municipality has been authorized to obtain a loan of IL 1m. from the Anglo-Palestine Bank Investment Co., and another 2m. out of the Export-Import Bank Loan to start the construction of the new water supply plant.

The loans are for 12 years at 5 1/2 per cent interest. The first instalment will be due a year after receipt of the equipment. Mayor I. Rokach told the Municipal Council tonight.

The Council approved the allocation of IL 10,000 for the drafting of plans to carry the railway line through the city, passing from the new Northern Station near Ramat Gan, touching the site of the proposed deep-water port and then on to Mikveh Israel, where it will join the existing line. The Israel Railways and the Marine Trust, Ltd., have also contributed similar sums for the purpose. It is not yet known whether the railway will be underground, on the surface or overhead.

The old railway line from the Matikva Quarter to Jaffa will be transformed into a highway linking up with the Jerusalem road near Mikveh Israel.

The Municipality has been asked by the Government to start planting about 3,000 dunnams of new parks in the area. 10,000 new pupils. Some 10,000 new pupils have been added to the Municipal school system this year, the Mayor said. This brings the number to 41,700, of which 37,000 were in the 1,600 classes of the elementary schools.

# Truman to Meet MacArthur; Russia Protests U.S. Strafing

## U.N. Debates U.S. Peace Proposals

LAKE SUCCESS, Tuesday. Australia and Yugoslavia announced their support of Secretary of State Dean Acheson's peace plan which was being debated today by the U.N. Political Committee.

The plan was presented to the committee yesterday. It is also sponsored by Britain, France, Canada, Turkey, the Philippines and Uruguay.

The plan has four points: 1) Calling of an emergency session of the General Assembly at 24 hours notice if Security Council action is blocked by the veto. 2) Establishment of a "watchdog" commission to observe areas of international tension. 3) Setting aside by member states of part of their armed forces for use by the United Nations when necessary. 4) Establishment of a committee to study the whole question of collective security.

Australia's Foreign Affairs Minister Percy Spender suggested that the "Big Five" powers should renew their efforts to establish a United Nations peace army.

Mr. Spender supported the first three points, but said there were "several serious objections to appointment of a committee."

The functions assigned to it were too indefinite, he argued. He mentioned two proposed functions—assessment of national resources (including armed forces) and military planning.

Yugoslavia Approves  
Mr. Edward Kardelj, Yugoslav Foreign Minister, announced his country's support of the proposal.

He said Yugoslavia considered it constituted an acceptable basis for the establishment of United Nations machinery capable of countering aggression provided that it was correctly applied.

Yugoslavia, he said, preferred even a somewhat defective system of international security to no system at all. Another reason for Yugoslavia's support, he said, was her present international position.

"Yugoslavia is exposed to an aggressive pressure which cannot be the concern of the people of Yugoslavia alone. The Yugoslav government has not placed, and it is not placing this question formally before the United Nations, because it does not wish to render more difficult the efforts we are making here in order to find the way to peace."

Mr. Kardelj said it should be clearly laid down that use of armed force could only be a remedial measure against a previously determined act of aggression.

Secondly, the machinery proposed should not be used for intervention in the internal political struggle of "this or that country."

Dr. Victor Andreja Belhunde (Perth) said he enthusiastically supported the emphasis that the Acheson plan put on the General Assembly's powers.

## IRAN GETS U.S. LOAN

TEHERAN, Tuesday (AP).—Premier Razmara announced in parliament today that the U.S. has agreed to lend \$25m. to Iran to help build up its economy.

At the same time, the Premier told deputies that negotiations are progressing "very successfully" for a \$20m. barter trade deal with Russia. This was Mr. Razmara's first official announcement of the Export-Import Bank loan, which will be used chiefly for agricultural and road-building equipment.

## Namir to Return From Moscow Post

By Our Political Correspondent  
TEL AVIV, Tuesday.—It is learned here that the Israeli Minister to Moscow, Mr. M. Namir, will return here next month.

He has been mentioned as a possible successor to Mr. P. Lubianker, General Secretary of the Histadrut, who is expected to enter the Government.

At the same time the U.S. Ambassador, Mr. James McDonald, is expected to return here shortly. He will remain, for only a few weeks prior to handing over the Embassy to his successor, an American career diplomat whose name is expected to be announced shortly.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday.—President Truman will meet General MacArthur, United Nations Commander for Korea, in the Pacific next week-end, White House sources said today. The sources said arrangements for the conference had just been made. It would be "somewhere in the Pacific," but they did not disclose whether the meeting place would be aboard a navy ship or on an island. It was learned that the President will go directly to the rendez-vous from St. Louis, where he is flying tomorrow. On his return from the conference the President will make a foreign policy speech at San Francisco on October 17.



## Wonsan Falls; G.I.'s Gain Slowly

TOKYO, Tuesday (Reuters).—Wonsan, main Communist east coast port, fell to South Korean troops today.

The airfield—one of the best in Korea—is also in their hands, and the South Koreans are in a position to strike westwards on the Communist capital of P'yongyang.

The main drive on P'yongyang from the south—by the American First Cavalry Division—has run into hardening resistance after an advance of about seven kms. north of the 38th Parallel, but opposition on other fronts is light and appears to be crumbling fast.

Latest reports from American 8th army H.Q. said the city and airfield were still under fire, probably from Communist self-propelled guns.

Staff officers said North Korean morale in this area was "extremely low," and low-flying aircraft equipped with loudspeakers flew over the area today calling on the Communists to surrender.

**Fleeing Northwards**  
Wonsan was not the hard nut to crack that South Korean officers had expected it to be. The North Koreans were reported fleeing northwards today, and abandoned equipment was evidence of the hasty withdrawal from defence positions along the coast in this area.

Troops of the American First Cavalry Division, pushing directly towards P'yongyang from Kaesong, today fought their way to about four miles north of the 38th Parallel against stubborn resistance from entrenched Communist troops.

The determined Northerners dug in on hills above the road, poured down concentrated mortar, machine gun and rifle fire. In the words of one wounded G.I.: "Those guys only stop fighting when they're dead."

Not more than 150 had surrendered since General MacArthur's three American and British forces against the 38th Parallel defences 48 hours ago.

The combined British and American force which crossed the Yalu River beat off three desperate attacks by about 150 Communist troops, then advanced beyond Paechon against light opposition.

The right arm of the attack reached Yunchung in strength and pushed on northeast against Communist troops only with rifle and machine guns.

## INDONESIA REJECTS U.N. PEACE PLEA

JAKARTA, Tuesday (AP).—The U.N. Commission for Indonesia officially announced today that the Indonesian government has refused to comply with its appeal to cease hostilities on Ambon Island.

The Indonesian refusal was handed to the commission this afternoon by Foreign Minister Mohammed Roem. The statement said the group "is now considering what further action will be taken."

It is believed that the commission will submit the South Moluccan conflict to the Security Council.

The commission last Friday appealed to the Indonesian government to cease military operations.

## VLADIVOSTOK AREA ATTACKED—USSR

WASHINGTON, Tuesday.—The State Department said today that Gen. MacArthur's Headquarters in Tokyo and the Defence Department here have been advised of a Russian protest that two American fighters strafed a Soviet airfield on Sunday.

The protest is not officially before the U.N. government, because of the American stand that it should be directed to the U.N. The U.S. Embassy in Moscow twice refused to accept the protest.

Moscow said the strafing incident took place about 100 kms. from the Soviet-Korean border, apparently in the Vladivostok area.

## Note Delivered

The Soviet monitor, quoting a Tass dispatch broadcast by Moscow Radio, said Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko handed the Soviet note to Mr. Walworth Barbour, U.S. Minister Counselor in Moscow, on October 9 after reading it to him verbally.

The note charged that "on October 8 at 16:17 hours, local time, two fighter planes of the U.S.A. air force of the type, Shooting Star F80, grossly violated the state frontier of the USSR and, approaching in a hedgehogging flight the Soviet aerodrome situated on the sea coast in the Sukhava-Rocha area, 100 kms. from the Soviet-Korean frontier, fired at the aerodrome with machine guns. As a result of the firing, damage was done to the property of the aerodrome."

The Soviet monitor quoted the Tass dispatch as saying that Russia's protest was "resolute" and that she demanded the strict punishment of the persons guilty of this "provocative" act.

## 'Necessary Measures'

It demanded assurances the U.S. will take necessary measures to prevent such actions in the future.

This is the third instance of the U.S. refusing protests and referring them to the U.N. The first was the Russian claim that one of their bombers was destroyed on a peaceful flight over Korea on September 4, and the second was a Chinese Communist complaint that American aircraft had strafed a Manchurian airfield. (AP, UP)

## MOBILIZATION OF MANPOWER AND EQUIPMENT

The mobilization of manpower is only part of the State's preparedness for an emergency. Our stand will be tested also by a systematic mobilization of equipment which ensures the correct distribution of the means of transport and production to the army and the civilian population. In the State's first autumn manoeuvres, part of the civilian vehicles which have been registered and tested will be pressed with service and placed at the disposal of the Reserve units.

Participation in the manoeuvres will recall that the nation is directing all its energies to peace but will not hesitate in an emergency to best its ploughshares into swords.

Public Relations Branch, Ministry of Defence.

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## CHURCHILL'S MEMOIRS

## Onslaught of the Japanese

This is the second chapter of volume IV of Mr. Churchill's War Memoirs, which is being published in serial form by The Jerusalem Post.

It soon became clear that Gen. Wavell had already doubts of our ability to maintain a prolonged defence of Singapore. I had counted upon the island and fortress standing a siege requiring heavy artillery to be landed, transported, and mounted by the Japanese. Before I left Washington I still contemplated a resistance of at least two months.

All that I had seen or read of war had led me to the conviction that having regard to modern fire-power a few weeks will suffice to create strong field defences, and also to limit and canalise the enemy's front of attack by minefields and other obstructions. Moreover it had never entered into my mind that no circle of detached forts of a permanent character protected the rear of the famous fortress. I cannot understand how it was I did not know this. But none of the officers on the spot and none of my professional advisers at home seem to have realized this awful need. At any rate, none of them pointed it out to me — not even those who saw my telegrams based upon the false assumption that a regular siege would be required.

I had read of Plevna in 1877, where before the era of machine-guns defences had been improvised by the Turks in the actual teeth of the Russian assault; and I had examined Verdun in 1917, where a field army lying in and among detached forts had two years earlier made so glorious a record. I had put my faith in the enemy being compelled to use artillery on a very large scale in order to pulverise our strong points at Singapore, and in the almost prohibitive difficulties and long delays which would impede such an artillery concentration and gathering of ammunition along Malayan communications.

Now suddenly, all this vanished away and I saw before me the hideous spectacle of the almost naked island and of the weary, if not exhausted, troops retreating upon it. I do not write this in any way to excuse myself. I ought to have known. My advisers ought to have known and I ought to have been told, and I ought to have asked. The reason I had not asked about this matter, amid the thousands of questions I put, was that the possibility of Singapore having no landward defences no more entered into my mind than that of a battleship being launched without a bottom.

I am aware of the various reasons that have been given for this failure: the preoccupation of the troops in training and in building defence works in Northern Malaya; the shortage of civilian labour; pre-war financial limitations and centralized War Office control; the fact that the Army's rôle was to protect the naval base, situated on the north shore of the island, and that it was therefore their duty to fight in front of that shore and not along it. I do not consider these reasons

valid. Defences should have been built. When I awoke on the morning of the 21st the following most pessimistic telegram from Gen. Wavell about the prospect of holding Singapore lay at the top of my box.

Gen. Wavell to Prime Minister. Jan. 19, 1942.

Officer whom I had sent to Singapore for plans of defence of island has now returned. Schemes are now being prepared for defence of northern part of island. Number of troops required to hold island effectively probably are great or greater than number required to defend Johore. I have ordered Percival to fight out the battle in Johore, but to work out plans for prolonged resistance on island as long as possible should he lose Johore battle.

I must warn you however that I doubt whether island can be held for long once Johore is lost. (The fortress guns are) sited for use against ships, and have mostly ammunition for that purpose only; many can only fire seawards. Part of garrison has already been ordered to move to Johore, and many troops remaining are doubtful value. I am sorry to give you depressing picture, but I do not want you to have false picture of island fortress. Singapore defences were constructed entirely to meet seaward attack. I still hope Johore may be held till next convoy arrives.

I pondered over Wavell's telegram of the 19th for a long time. So far I had thought only of animating and, as far as possible, compelling the desperate defence of the island, the fortress, and the city, and this in any case was the attitude which should be maintained unless any decisive change of policy was ordered. But now I began to think more of Burma and of the reinforcements on the way to Singapore. These could be doomed or diverted. There was still ample time to turn their prowess northward to Rangoon. I therefore prepared the following minute to the Chiefs of Staff, and gave it to Gen. Ismay in time for their meeting at 11.30 a.m. on the 21st. I confess freely however that my mind was not made up. I leaned upon my friends and counsellors. We all suffered extremely at this time.

Prime Minister to Gen. Ismay, for C.O.S. Committee. Jan. 21, 1942.

In view of this very bad telegram from Gen. Wavell, must reconsider the whole position at a Defence Committee meeting tonight.

The message given little hopes for prolonged defence. It is evident that such defence would be only at the cost of all the reinforcements now on the way. If Gen. Wavell is doubtful whether more than delay can be obtained, the question arises whether we should not at once blow the docks and batteries and workshops to pieces, and concentrate everything on the defence of Burma and keep the open Burma Road open. It appears to me that this question should be squarely faced now and put bluntly to Gen. Wavell. What is the value of Singapore (to the enemy) above the many harbours in the South-West Pacific if all naval and military demolitions are thoroughly carried out? On the other hand, the loss of Burma would be very grievous. It would cut us off from the Chinese, whose troops have been the most successful of those yet engaged against the Japanese. We may, by muddling things and hesitating to take an early decision, lose both Singapore and the Burma Road. Obviously the decision depends upon how long the defence of Singapore island can be maintained. It is only for a few weeks, it is certainly not worth losing all our reinforcements and aircraft. Moreover, one must consider that the fall of Singapore, accom-



Winston Churchill

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panied as it will be by the fall of Corridor, will be a tremendous shock to India, which only the arrival of powerful forces and successful action on the Burma front can sustain. Pray let all this be considered this morning.

The Chiefs of Staff reached no definite conclusion, and when we met in the evening at the Defence Committee a similar hesitation to commit ourselves to so grave a step prevailed. The direct initial responsibility lay with Gen. Wavell as Allied Supreme Commander. Personally I found the issue so difficult that I did not press my view, which I should have done if I had been resolved.

On Jan. 24 we received the following message from Mr. Curtin which contained a severe reproach.

Mr. Curtin to Prime Minister. Jan. 23, 1942.

I am communicating the following message as the result of an emergency meeting of the War Cabinet summoned today to consider reports on the situation in Malaya.

Page has reported that the Defence Committee has been considering the evacuation of Malaya and Singapore. After all the assurances we have been given the evacuation of Malaya and Singapore would be regarded here and elsewhere as an inexcusable withdrawal of the Empire and local defence. As Malaya is a separate possession, it is understood that it was to be made impregnable, and in any case it was to be a separate period until the arrival of the main fleet.

Even in an emergency diversion of reinforcements should be to the Netherlands East Indies and not Burma. Anything else would be deeply resented and might force the Netherlands East Indies to make a separate peace. On the faith of the proposed force of reinforcements, we have acted and carried out our part of the bargain. We expect you not to frustrate the whole purpose by evacuation.

The trend of the situation in Malaya and the attack on Rabaul are giving rise to a growing uneasiness in the East Indies at Allied impotence to do anything to stem the Japanese advance. The Government is realizing its responsibility to prepare public for the possibility of evacuation. The Government has a duty and obligation to explain why it may not have been possible to have part of the reinforcements on the way to Singapore. These could be doomed or diverted. There was still ample time to turn their prowess northward to Rangoon. I therefore prepared the following minute to the Chiefs of Staff, and gave it to Gen. Ismay in time for their meeting at 11.30 a.m. on the 21st. I confess freely however that my mind was not made up. I leaned upon